

Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources
Public Comment Process for the Proposed Kennecott Eagle Project

The Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company (Kennecott) is proposing an underground nickel and copper mine and an aboveground ore crushing facility in Michigamme Township, Marquette County, Michigan. The proposed location is approximately 30 miles northwest of Marquette, near the Salmon Trout River.

Proposed Actions

There are five actions currently under consideration by the Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Natural Resources (DNR). Approval of all five actions is necessary for the facility to begin operation. Below is a brief summary of each action:

1. DEQ Air Use Permit – The DEQ rules require a permit for new sources of air emissions. The proposed underground mine, associated aboveground crushing facility, and equipment used to backfill the mine must meet state and federal air quality requirements. The draft permit conditions include emission restrictions and operational requirements.
2. DEQ Groundwater Discharge Permit – The DEQ rules require a discharge permit. Wastewater from the mining operations, including mine dewatering water, contact storm water from the main operations area, water from the temporary development rock storage area, and truck wash and crusher operations must be treated to meet limits based upon groundwater and/or surface water concerns. The draft permit specifies effluent and groundwater limitations.
3. DEQ Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit – The DEQ rules require a permit for mining. The permit must have an environmental impact assessment, a mining, reclamation, and environmental protection plan, a contingency plan, financial assurance, and a list of other state and federal permits that are anticipated to be required. The draft permit specifies conditions to assure the mining process would strictly comport with the mining rules.
4. DNR Surface Use Lease for Metallic Mineral Mining Facility – The DNR is reviewing Kennecott's request for a metallic mineral mining surface facility. If approved, the DNR will provide for the long-term use of State land through a surface use lease. The lease would contain conditions that allow the DNR to retain control over the activities that occur on the leased land.
5. DNR Metallic Mineral Lease – The proposed mine occupies parts of two State of Michigan Metallic Mineral Leases. Kennecott is required to submit a Mining and Reclamation Plan for approval prior to the start of any mining activities. The Mining Plan includes maps of the mine area, the proposed method of mining, identification of lands that will be used for storing ore, shipping facilities, buildings, and a proposed timetable for construction. The Reclamation Plan identifies the methods for abandoning the mine and restoring the surface of the site when the operations end. The DNR is reviewing the proposed Mining and Reclamation Plan.

Public Participation

The DEQ and DNR are seeking input from all interested persons on their proposed actions. Rather than requiring citizens to provide comments separately on each of the five proposed actions, the DEQ and DNR have elected to hold one consolidated public comment period and series of hearings. The 60-day public comment period will extend to 5:00 pm, Wednesday, October 17, 2007. The public hearings will be held at the following dates and locations:

West Branch Community Center, 253-299 Avenue A, Forsyth Township, Michigan, (located on the old K.I. Sawyer AFB, approximately 3.5 miles from County Road 553, just behind the DEQ UP District office), on September 11 and 12, 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and September 13, 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lansing Center, Rooms 203 and 204, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, September 19, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

During the comment period and hearing, all interested persons are encouraged to present their views on any or all of the proposed actions. There are four methods for a person or organization to provide their input on the proposals:

1. E-mail your comments regarding Kennecott to the designated DEQ/DNR mailbox at DEQ-Kennecott-comments@michigan.gov . After submitting your comments, you will receive an automated confirmation.
2. Mail your comments to DEQ/DNR Kennecott Comments, Office of Geological Survey, P.O. Box 30256, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7756.
3. Provide your written comments at the Public Hearing.
4. Speak during the Public Hearing.

A person or organization may both speak at the public hearing and provide comments through the other methods listed above. The comments received will be distributed to the DEQ and DNR staff reviewing Kennecott's proposal. All comments presented by October 17, 2007, will be considered prior to final action.

Public Hearing

The public hearing is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to provide verbal testimony before the DEQ and DNR on the proposed mine. As people enter the hearing location, they will be encouraged to complete an attendance card. These attendance cards have two purposes: to identify individuals who wish to speak during the hearing, and to establish a mailing list for later mailings regarding the proposed facility. Those wishing to speak during the hearing should complete a colored attendance card while those not wishing to speak should complete a white attendance card. This will allow the DEQ and DNR to quickly identify the cards of those wishing to provide testimony. A person can complete a colored attendance card at any

time during the hearing. Also, a person is not required to speak if they have completed a colored attendance card. Everyone completing an attendance card will be included on the mailing list.

Throughout the hearing hours, technical staff of the DEQ and DNR will be available in an area adjacent to the hearing room to answer questions regarding the Departments' reviews and proposed actions. There will not be any formal presentations. Additional copies of the staff analyses and documents will be available.

Inside the hearing room, seated at a table at the front will be the Hearing Officer and the DEQ and DNR decision-makers or representatives. There will be a microphone and podium facing the table at the front of the seating area. This microphone is used by the public to provide their testimony. Seated at the side of the room, a court reporter will be recording the testimony of the people speaking. The hearing is for testimony only. Questions regarding the proposed project will not be answered in the hearing room.

At the beginning of the public hearing, the Hearing Officer will read a brief statement on the purpose of the hearing and the procedures that will be followed during the hearing. Using the submitted colored attendance cards, the Hearing Officer will then begin calling persons to testify at the microphone. Because it is expected that many people will want to speak, testimony will be limited to five minutes. A speaker may indicate that they wish to testify again and their attendance card will be placed in line behind those who have not yet spoken.